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LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the English translation of a note verbale, dated 25 November 1999, addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the abduction of four Iranian border guards by Iraqi forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-27320 (E) 010200

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Annex

Note verbale dated 25 November 1999 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran and has the honour to state that according to the report received from the border officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the recent infiltration into Iranian territory (in the Shalamcha border area, the kilometre Bisto Panj Sentry Post) of an armed group composed of terrorist elements belonging to the MKO based in Iraq, four Iranian border guards were dispatched to the border at point zero in the above-mentioned area, on 25 November 1999 at 0500 hours, with a view to controlling and preventing further infiltration and illegal movement across the border. They were abducted by the Iraqi forces and taken to the Iraqi Al-Deir base (near Basra). The identities of the border guards abducted are:

1. Sergeant Hojatt-ullah Nezam Ul-Islami, son of Ahmad, born in 1346 Solar Hijra, birth certificate No. 8 issued in Borrojerd.

2. Corporal First Class Fazlullah Joodaki, son of Sabzali, born in 1355 Solar Hijra, birth certificate No. 1096 issued in Khoram-Abad.

3. Corporal Mohammad Feizi, son of Yaddolah, born in 1355 Solar Hijra, birth certificate No. 450 issued in Bakhtarani.

4. Conscript Reza Kakavand, son of Mohammad, born in 1358 Solar Hijra, birth certificate No. 1238 issued in Ahvaz.

While protesting strongly against the abduction of the Iranian border guards by the Iraqi forces, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Iraqi Government responsible for the consequences of breaching its border obligations and good-neighbourly principles as well as harbouring the MKO on its soil and creating appropriate conditions for it to organize terrorist, sabotage and armed activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and emphatically demands the immediate release of the Iranian abducted personnel.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran the assurances of its highest consideration.